

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:TECH, EG, IS

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

REF: (A) CAIRO 9677; (B) CAIRO 9740; (C) IAEA VIENNA 8258

1. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION FROM EMBASSY OF FAHMY'S POSITION AS DESCRIBED IN SENTENCE SIX OF PARAGRAPH 1(B) OF REFTEL (A) SINCE IT HAS BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING ALL ALONG THAT EGYPT (FAHMY IN PARTICULAR) HAS BEEN STICKING TO THE PROPOSITION THAT DIMONA MUST BE COVERED BY SAFEGUARDS UNDER ANY NEW U.S. NUCLEAR COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT WITH ISRAEL. IF FAHMY IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT DIMONA EXCEPTION, THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE BREAKTHROUGH WHICH COULD ALLOW CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENTS AT APPROPRIATE TIME. REFTEL (B) SUGGESTS THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE, IN FACT,

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AGREED TO OUR PROPOSAL, BUT THIS IS NOT ENTIRELY CONSISTENT

WITH EFFAT'S PAST MESSAGES INCLUDING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KRATZER IN VIENNA PER REFTEL (C). EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONFIRM WHETHER THIS IS INDEED THE CASE AND WHETHER THE GOE IS PROPOSING TO SEND NEGOTIATING TEAM TO WASHINGTON WITH THE VIEW OF CONCLUDING THE NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE SADAT VISIT.

2. U.S. POSITION HAS BEEN THAT TEXTS OF THE EGYPTIAN AND

ISRAEL AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE IDENTICAL SO FAR AS SUBSTANTIVE MATERIAL ASPECTS OF SAFEGUARDS AND ALL TECHNICAL PROVISIONS ARE CONCERNED AND THAT THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES WOULD PROVIDE THAT ANY FUTURE REPEAT FUTURE FACILITIES OR MATERIALS WHICH MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED FROM ANY EXTERNAL SOURCE, AND ANY MATERIAL PRODUCED THEREFROM, WOULD BE SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS. THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH LANGUAGE WHICH STATES THAT "NUCLEAR FACILITIES OR MATERIALS WHICH MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO EGYPT FROM ANY EXTERNAL SOURCE" WOULD BE SO SAFEGUARDED. NEITHER NOTE WOULD HAVE RETROACTIVE EFFECT. THIS FORMULATION, THEREFORE, WOULD HAVE OPERATIVE EFFECT OF EXCLUDING REPEAT EXCLUDING DIMONA, AN EXISTING FACILITY. THUS, THE DISPARITY ARISES NOT FROM ANY DIFFERENCE IN TREATMENT OR TEXT BUT FROM FACT THAT THERE IS NO EGYPTIAN FACILITY COMPARABLE TO DIMONA.

3. REFTEL (A) SEEMS TO SUGGEST THAT EGYPT HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT THIS FORMULATION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE AS TO WHETHER OUR UNDERSTANDING IS CORRECT, AND, IF SO, IN WHICH CONTEXT FAHMY MADE SUCH A STATEMENT. ALTERNATIVELY, IS FAHMY IMPLYING THAT EGYPT WOULD ACCEPT SAFEGUARDS ON FUTURE DIMONA ACTIVITIES WITH UNDERSTANDING PREVIOUSLY PRODUCED MATERIAL LEFT UNCONTROLLED? OUR PROBLEMS OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE COMPLICATED IF THERE IS ANY LIKELIHOOD THAT EGYPTIANS MAY BE TOYING WITH LATTER FORMULATION. HOPEFULLY CLARIFICATION OF GOE POSITION (PER REFTEL (B)) WILL RESOLVE THIS ISSUE.

4. CONCERNING MORE SPECIFIC TECHNICAL POINTS, WE ARE NOW FORMULATING A REPLY TO LATEST EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS WHICH WE HOPE TO FORWARD SHORTLY IN SEPTTEL. QUESTION OF WHETHER WE SHOULD SEEK TO CONCLUDE THESE NEGOTIATIONS
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BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER SADAT'S VISIT WILL BE SUBJECT TO SEPTTEL, AND WILL DEPEND IN PART ON WHETHER SCENARIO DESCRIBED IN REFTEL (B) IS, INDEED, ACCURATE. WE PLAN TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH AMB. EILTS DURING CONSULTATIONS HERE IN DEPARTMENT.

5. FOR TEL AVIV: THE DOMESTIC RECEPTIVITY WE ARE LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER TOWARDS CONCLUDING US-GOE AGREEMENT,

AT THIS TIME, IS LIKELY TO DEPEND, IN LARGE PART ON THE
TIMING, STATUS AND DEGREE OF ISRAELI INTEREST IN CON-
CLUDING A COMPANION AGREEMENT WITH THE US. WE WOULD
APPRECIATE YOUR OWN BEST ASSESSMENT, WITHOUT APPROACHING
GOI, AS TO WHERE ISRAEL'S PLANS IN THIS REGARD NOW STAND,
WHETHER THEY ARE LIKELY TO REACTIVATE OUR NEGOTIATIONS
IN NEAR FUTURE, AND HOW THEY MIGHT PERCEIVE A US-EGYPTIAN
DECISION TO FINALIZE THE NEGOTIATIONS DURING FORTHCOMING
SADAT VISIT. INGERSOLL

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